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Moves on the Big War Board.

The French invasion of Alsace, whether it is meant as a mere diversion or as the first move in a serious campaign, has a sentimental interest. Paris has kept a vigil for forty-three years at the base of its statue of Strassburg. All French pride is bound up in the recovery of Alsace and Lorraine—the two provinces wrenched from France in the hour of her bitterest defeat.

Except for that loss the republic might have accommodated itself in time to friendly relations with Germany. But Alsace and Lorraine remained unreconciled, as well as France, and the desire to re-establish the old eastern boundary has been the controlling motive of French diplomacy for more than a generation. The Russian alliance had that purpose in view, and the Triple Entente, though not based upon it, meant to France a larger opportunity than had ever been offered before to work for the recovery of her alienated territory.

Now French troops are on the soil of Alsace, and according to Paris reports are being welcomed as deliverers by the Alsacians. Mulhausen has been occupied, and later dispatches say that the country has been cleared as far north from Mulhausen as Colmar.

General Joffre, the head of the French General Staff, is reported to be with the invading force, which would seem to give the movement a serious military aspect. If it is the beginning of a forward campaign, that campaign is probably directed toward Southern Germany rather than toward Berlin. General Joffre is on the old route down the Danube to Bavaria and Vienna. Yet it seems improbable that he should move in that direction, leaving the main German armies on the Franco-German border and in Luxembourg and Belgium menacing his flank and rear. It may be that he merely intends to operate north from Colmar against the rear and left flank of the German forces deployed along the frontier to the west of Strassburg. Whatever his plans, his move was a daring one and his success in entering Alsace has kindled a great enthusiasm all over France.

If France, Great Britain and Belgium are to undertake a serious offensive movement against Germany, a serious offensive movement against Germany would seem to point at an invasion of the Prussian Rhine Province and Westphalia by way of Cologne. In his book entitled "Germany and the Next War," published a couple of years ago, General von Bernhardi, of the German army, pointed out that the German frontier is most vulnerable along the flat open stretches of the lower Rhine Valley.

There are no formidable defensive works along the Belgian and Dutch borders, German strategy not having thought it necessary to fortify against the Belgians and Dutch. In case of a war with France in which Great Britain should be involved it was probably considered sufficient to secure the friendly co-operation of Holland and Belgium or, failing in that, to seize the Dutch and Belgian lines of defense for German use. The high value put on Liège by the German War Office is demonstrated by Germany's original demand on Belgium not only for the free use of the Belgian railways but for the possession of Liège as a guarantee of good faith.

According to General von Bernhardi, naval as well as military policy would incline France and Great Britain to take a northern route of attack, since by that method the armies would not only cover all the Channel and North Sea ports nearest to England, but would also threaten the great German naval base at Wilhelmshaven. If that base could be cut off on the land side as well as blockaded by sea the condition of the fleet tied up in it would soon become very precarious.

Germany acted on von Bernhardi's theories in reaching out for the possession of Liège, even before war with Great Britain had been declared. That city was the key to the Belgian frontier. Had the possession of Maestricht been of equal importance Germany would certainly have made similar demands on Holland. If Germany could have isolated Antwerp, cut the railroads leading south from Ostend, Dunkirk and Calais and turned the French armies back from northeastern France the mobilization of British troops in France would have been greatly hindered and the French first line of defense would have been pushed back one hundred miles.

Now Belgium promises to be the first battleground of the great European war. English, French and Belgian troops are concentrated there to oppose the two northernmost German armies, that before Liège and that holding the grand duchy of Luxembourg. If the Germans win the first clash the allies will fall back toward the French border. If the allies win, a forward movement into Rhenish Prussia is likely to be made. For Ger-

many rapidly in action is essential, and a big battle is to be expected within the next few days.

A Test of the Stock Exchange's Value.

For Americans the period of this European war should prove one of instructive observation. Nearly every one is waiting to learn the values of modern armament and ordinance. Already we of this comparatively ingenuous nation have imbibed a lot of knowledge about the workings of world politics. But there are plenty of lessons closer home which, thanks to the war, we are to be compelled to learn, and not the least important concerns the value of the Stock Exchange.

The clamor against the Stock Exchange has been stilled somewhat since the business depression curbed its activities and it undertook to do some housecleaning on its own initiative. But one can still find without undue hunting individuals with sizable brain pans who will assert that the permanent closing of the Stock Exchange would not injure commerce and industry in this country a bit. As the Stock Exchange is destined to remain closed probably for some months we ought to make this interval a good test of this theory, and it would seem to be the duty of all friends and foes of the institution to sit in judgment.

At the start, however, we should like to predict that before the Stock Exchange opens its doors again the American people as a whole will have become very impatient over the lack of a public speculative market for securities and the stagnation of corporate industry which this entails. The Stock Exchange, we think, will have fully vindicated its right to exist.

Americans in Germany.

Incidents like the arrest in Germany of Mr. Archer M. Huntington, of this city, on the charge of being a spy are an inevitable part of war. Mr. Huntington is president of the Aero Club of this country, and in this capacity was collecting maps of Germany for the use of airmen here. His maps excited the suspicions of the German police, who see spies in every foreigner, even in foreigners of long residence in Germany and known occupation there, like the regular American and English correspondents in Berlin, who have been bundled out of the country or thrown into jail as suspicious persons.

The Tribune's correspondent there, we have reason to believe, is in jail. The correspondents of the other New York papers have been expelled. Even Huerta had regard enough for the opinion of the world to permit newspaper correspondents to remain in his capital, including even those of this country, with which he was engaged in hostilities. And yet the Germans here complain that all the news from Germany now being printed in American papers comes from English sources!

Many more incidents like the arrest of Mr. Huntington have taken place in Germany than in any other country having the same excuse. Germany has for hasty and mistaken action. Every day we read of the insulting of American women possessing American passports and their subject to indignities by the German police. No doubt there is small cause for alarm on the part of relatives and friends of Americans who happen to have been caught in Germany by the sudden coming on of war, but this government ought to make sharp representations to the Kaiser's government in behalf of its citizens. Facilities for their departure should be provided as soon as possible; for means of egress will soon be reduced by naval blockades. Nothing would produce a more favorable opinion toward Germany here than consideration shown by her toward the American visitors whose coming she sought and who now need protection and a means of escape from her borders.

The Business of Spending a Vacation.

Not the imaginative and ingenious art of getting a vacation but the duller and easier business of spending it is our concern. To wheedle an extra week out of an overworked boss requires careful manipulation and a fine feeling for the psychology of the subject. A whole chapter could be devoted to the art of prolonging a vacation by leaving early—with suitable dangle—and returning late—with suitable explanations. Once you get your vacation the theory and practice of spending it are really very simple.

Roughly speaking, only two schools of thought are open to you. The loafers belong in one; the hustling, hardworking vacationist gives the type of the other. The creed of the former is the old one that a vacation implies a rest. You work like a cart-horse for fifty weeks out of fifty-two, and therefore in the two remaining weeks you amble away to a silent, carefree, empty spot and think diligently of nothing at all. You are practically alone in a silent, motionless universe.

The hardworking vacationist is a much more frequent spectacle. Far be it from us to jeer at him. There is excellent theory back of his endeavors. Rest for wearied faculties is best obtained, it can be argued, not by letting them lie idle but by putting them to quite new and different exercises. Was it not Gladstone who fathered this idea? He was its greatest exponent, at any rate, for he found his relaxation and refreshment in turning his back utterly on stern politics and putting his mind to some such light labor as reading Homer in the original or swapping quotations from Virgil with John Morley.

Mainly, here lies the inspiration of most American vacations. Having shaved all winter and spring at your office, you transfer your tireless energies to tennis court, golf links or what not in order to give your tired self a complete holiday. You keep the machine whirling away as usual. Perhaps you even speed it up a little. We have seen rugged specimens so burned and strained and worn by two weeks of holiday pleasure that it required a month of peaceful work to restore them to normal health. These are extreme exponents of the Gladstone doctrine, of course. Usually a week is ample time in which to effect a complete recovery.

We dislike to do it, but fairness requires that we set down the weakness of the first or loafing manner of holiday. That weakness is nothing less than the terrible struggle of going to work again. You sit and sit and think of nothing at all for so long that when the office desk looms up before you once more it has all the horrible impending doom of a nightmare. You have utterly forgotten how to work. It seems as if you never could learn. You shudder and cringe and dread before little tasks that were play before you practised the fatal game of loafing.

So, to whichever school of vacationist you belong, we present for your return our heartfelt sympathy and understanding.

The Conning Tower

On our way to board the good and crowded ship for home [Applause], we stopped at the post-office and found, among other forwarded contributions, a whole column by Morrie, the promising young contributor. To think, with us, is to act. In less time than it takes to read it, we marked Morrie's stuff for type-style, chucked it into an envelope and sent it on to the dear old comp. room. But this all-contribution thing must come to an end [Great applause and hissing], and—do you know?—we'll be with The Tribune tomorrow!

Conk Bluffs, Mass. F. P. A.

In the Manner of the Boss.

Recently F. P. A. praised me. Said that I wasn't so worse; Up to the summit he raised me. When I submitted my verse. All of my friends, it seemed, read the Note that was under my lay. And, what is more, they all said the Note was O. K.

I—I am modest and quiet; Braggart I've never been named. Did I commence a young riot, Acting uncouth, unashamed? Did I start yelling and shouting, Grabbing the folks as they'd pass? Did I insist to the doubting I was the class?

Did I act perfectly horrid? Did I go crazy with joy? Did I use verbiage torrid, Claiming that "I was the boy"? Did I look down on the mob then? Did I demand lots of credit? Did I, in short, play the snob then?

Did I? You said it!

Some people stand appalled before the horrors of war. They shudder at the mere thought of the European strife. Other folk, like ourselves, f. l. calmly demand to know the worst, and purchase the "Evening Journal."

Note to Jack: Why not keep your eyes open, like others of the boss's substitutes? R. L. T. has been planning for ever so long to run a book of the best verse contributors have sent to the Lib. He's going to call it "Contributory Neglect," or words to that effect.

THE GREAT DIVIDE.

60 DAYS IN JAIL. SILENCES PROFANE. I. W. W. AGITATOR. G. W. Swasey, Just Returned from London, Discussed Church and Capital at Public Meeting. —The World.

Back in 1912 Prexy Wilson almost managed to get F. P. A.'s vote by using the phrase "we purpose" where the average mortal would have said "we propose." We thought that a rather foolish reason; but the other night a certain young dandy made a tremendous hit with us by telling us a mutual friend of ours was rather reticent.

If there's one guy we envy it's Art Young. No matter what age he'll live to he'll always be Young; and even his crudest drawing is bound to be a work of Art.

WHY SOME FOLK FAVOR SIMPLIFIED SPELLING. "Senior Don Francesco Carvajal. . . . Carvajal is a man of law. . . . Carvajal. . . . The Mail.

The Boss's friend, that athletic young man, has a new job. He is writing "leaders" for the Es-sayny films. One of the recent features of that company concerns itself with a, take it from the screen, "mayorality contest."

WHY SOME PEOPLE NEVER COMPREHEND BASEBALL.

"... Matty pitched his teammates to a tenning victory. . . . After the Giants won the game in the eleventh, the Pirates rallied, and came within an ace of tying up the score in their half of the ninth."

All around it's a big year for Columbia. The Blue and White annexed the fencing champs, tied for the basketball trophy and won at Poughkeepsie. Furthermore, Freddie Schanz breaks into The Diary, Jimmy O'Neale gets a write-up in The Gotham Weekly Gazette—and here we are running the Tower.

When the C. S. of J. ran the Tower for the Boss the seniors hogged it, refusing to recognize our wit, a freshman being presumed to have none, or, at any rate, having the good form to conceal it. . . . Now, however, we are practically a soph.

Of course, we're not really a s. o. i. till September, when the C. S. of J. reopens, and, gosh, how we dread it!

On the o. h., no less a person than Joseph Conrad is in favor of S's of J. Witness this quotation from "Chance":

"No one seemed to take any proper pride in his work: from plumbers, who were simply thieves, to, say, newspaper men (who seemed to think them a specially intellectual class), who never by any chance gave a correct version of the simplest affair."

Up to the world's series they act like Giants. Then the Athletics make them look like Giants.

Hasn't anybody suggested hitherto that the female giants might be called a Feml-Nine? . . . Strange!

The esteemed, to be frivolous, "American" informs us that Miss Josephine Pollack is engaged to Frederick Kipper. . . . Is Anthony Constock around? . . . We were merely about to suggest that the sooner Miss Pollack becomes a Kipper, the sooner she will become a Mommer.

We are strong believers in "Safety First." The reception we may get from readers after they have read the Tower this morning may not be extremely cordial. We shall use a one-word instance, thereby making a quick getaway.

A speedy finish, so to speak. We repeat, a speedy Flunish. Kolehmainen!

*Contributing for the Boss. MORRIE.

AFTER FORTY-FOUR YEARS.



Alsace—I'm so glad you're back, my dear!

THE PEOPLE'S COLUMN

An Open Forum for Public Debate.

THE MILITARIST TO BLAME

Big Armaments Have Brought on the War, He Thinks.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: For years the manufacturers of war material and the militarists have lied to us that the preparations for war were the best guarantee of peace. Those who were fools enough ever to believe these statements must have had a rude awakening at the news of the European cataclysm.

I know that every sane American is opposed to the idiotic bloodshed that is now going on among our neighbors, and I hope that never again shall we see enlightened nations fighting against one another, but that they find there is room enough on the earth for all in peace.

Resolutions against wars are good for nothing, but one thing American can do to prevent these horrors from breaking over their own country. Let them glance over the list of those of our "statesmen" who are for strong navies and strong armies, and let these war managers be wiped out at the first election. SIEGFRIED JACOBSSON. New York, Aug. 7, 1914.

THE KAISER'S MOTIVE

Unjust, It Is Considered, to Ascribe a Puerile or Base One to Him for Starting War.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: As a reader of The New York Tribune since 1855, with a vivid recollection of the course of The Tribune in the Franco-Prussian War, you will permit me to question the justice and fairness of the editorial, "The Kaiser's Challenge to the World," in this morning's issue. This (rather sensationality titled) article makes no comment on the real cause, which is self-preservation only.

Not one word is uttered of the systematic and continuous encroachments of Russia, of the rancorous feeling of England, of the bitter animosity of France. Not one word of the danger impending from every side.

The article may be meritorious from another point of view. It is just and fair, however, to impute so puerile or base a motive, of such a character as this article implies, to Kaiser Wilhelm and his advisers, for plunging a nation into a terrible war? The very thought seems unworthy of The Tribune, founded by Horace Greeley.

A VETERAN OF THE CIVIL WAR. New York, Aug. 6, 1914.

RUSSIA CROWDING GERMANY OUT

A Writer Thinks the Kaiser's Declaration Justified.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: I ask you for fairness toward Germany in your editorials in regard to the causes of this war. First, let me say that I am a German by birth, but American by adoption, and I firmly believe that if the real reason is understood you will see that your editorials in the future are unbiased. No favor toward the Teutonic race is desired, but merely fairness.

Why should Germany seek war? Everything the empire could gain through peace; destruction may be in war. Russia has been trying since Peter the Great (1725) to fulfill his political last will, which was to make Russia the power in the Balkans, and in case of success, to be the power of Europe. Now she has found the time opportune, because to-day she has powerful allies to carry out this will, nearly two hundred years old. France, which could have had the friendship of

WANTS HEDGES SUPPORTED

Calls Him "Good Enough for Any Republican or Republican Newspaper."

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: As a Republican whose faith has always been in the Republican party, and therefore a consistent reader of your paper, I fail to appreciate why, after devoting its entire history to the furtherance of Republican principles and success, your paper has not been consistent this year.

Two years ago the campaign was an unusual one. The Republican party had been in power for sixteen years in the nation, and, excepting the Dix administration, for a great many years in the state, and the people were anxious for a change. They got it and relished now their folly, and are ready to return to the Republican party and real Republican candidates. Therefore, when you shift from Whitman we can understand why—owing to his friendship with Roosevelt.

But why not stand by the man who stood and fought for the party's existence two years ago, when Whitman and the rest were not so anxious to be nominated? The Hon. Job E. Hedges made a gallant fight, and he should be good enough for any Republican or Republican newspaper. CHARLES S. RAIZEN. New York, Aug. 4, 1914.

FOR MEXICAN ARMS EMBARGO

President Should Stop Their Exportation to All Nations.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: There is no hope for peace in Mexico as long as the various factions can get all the arms and ammunition they want from the United States. Carranza will not make terms with the government. Villa will plot to jump at the throat of Carranza, which the people of this country want to avoid. The arms and ammunition which this country has poured into Mexico so irresponsibly will then be turned against our soldiers. President Wilson has it within his power to stop the arms companies of this country from supplying any more munitions of war to any party in Mexico. Why has he not already done it? That one act alone would more than anything else help compose the Mexican situation. The ammunition manufacturers will not be offended. They have hungry markets elsewhere.

Furthermore, the incalculable help the administration has extended to Carranza and Villa puts it in a position to insist that the transfer of governmental control be accomplished according to civilized methods. Hold back the bullets and use a firm hand, Mr. President. PUZZLED. Grantwood, N. J., Aug. 5, 1914.

OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN

War Shows It Is High Time She Had a Hand in Things.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The present troubles would seem to indicate that Mamma ought to have something to say about the direction of the human family. Papa's temper has got the better of him again, and his impulsive, old-fashioned notions of settling matters will plunge a myriad homes in misery.

We never thought Willy's warlike games meant anything. Joseph pretended that he didn't want to play. Nick, Peter and Georgy Porgy have had to come in, not because they want to, but because the "will of Heaven" forced the tin sword into everybody's hand indiscriminately. War belongs properly to the sum-

mer house at the end of the garden. When it interferes with the servants and upsets the proper hours for meals it is time Mother stopped it, whether it amuses Father or not.

This should be the great moment for woman suffrage and the radical alteration of the position of women in modern life. Government may be a man's job, but if there were a parliament of schoolgirls in every nation it is hard to imagine what greater disaster they could have arrived at than universal war. STEPHEN HAWES. New York, Aug. 6, 1914.

AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

One Writes of a 'Cello and Other Draws a Bass.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Let us for a moment forget what we are doing, and turn our tense minds toward the arts. Let us, more specifically, revert to the oft-bewailed lack of agreement between author and illustrator, as exemplified in the "A Little Milk," in Harper's Magazine for May last. Here we are told of a "cello player," but upon turning the page one beholds a man apparently struggling beneath a huge "bass." This question, therefore, naturally presents itself: Is the art editor of that excellent magazine unaware of the difference between 'cello and bass, or the blame to be laid solely at the door of Miss Elizabeth Shippen Green?

It is, I readily admit, not a question of immediate weight or pertinence, but the discrepancy between picture and text, coming upon a distracted stock broker (not unfamiliar with music) at the close of a trying day in a cruel period, was violent and incalculable enough to wring from him this protest. A "break" of this sort in one of our most influential publications is a humiliating proof of our lack of culture (especially musical culture), and is fraught with an unspeakably pitiful significance. WILSON A. BURROWS. Yonkers, N. Y., Aug. 6, 1914.

A Question of Competent Judgment.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Your editorials dealing with the European situation put the blame for the outbreak of this terrible war at the doors of Austria. I am sure that the intricacies of European diplomacy well enough to be a competent judge in this matter. One New York newspaper stated yesterday very correctly that most news regarding this war reaches America via London and is colored accordingly. It is equally true that editorial opinions of New York newspapers come via London, and echo English sentiments. You and I, who are Americans, are not to take of our English spectacles and study the causes of this war impartially. "Fair play" is an American maxim. Please act accordingly. CHARLES LOUNSBURY. 610 West 141st st., New York City. August 6, 1914.

For the Critic of Christianity.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: I have read with interest the letter by Harold Fogel printed in The Tribune of August 6, 1914, in which he so caustically condemns Christianity. It is unfortunate that one so evidently unacquainted with the Bible plan as revealed in God's Word should venture to express his views on so great a subject. May I, in all kindness, suggest that he may with profit read the prophecy of Daniel, particularly the twelfth chapter, and our Lord's own words given in at least three of the Gospels, and notably in St. Luke, twenty-first chapter, as well as the Book of Revelation? CHARLES LOUNSBURY. Passaic, N. J., Aug. 7, 1914.